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Wilson, Larry David. 1990. *Tantilla insulamontana.*

Tantilla insulamontana Wilson and Mena

Tantilla insulamontana Wilson and Mena, 1980:24. Type-locality, "Río Minas, 15.1 km W Santa Isabel, Prov. Azuay, Ecuador, elevation ca. 1250 m." Holotype, Univ. Kansas Mus. Nat. Hist. 152207, adult (?) male, collected 12 June 1971 by Arthur C. Echternacht (examined by author).

• **Content.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **Definition.** A species of *Tantilla* with a multilineate pattern, consisting of dark stripes on a more-or-less uniform tan ground color. The dark stripes are located on the middle of scale row 1, adjacent halves of rows 2 and 3, middle of row 4, adjacent halves of rows 5 and 6, and the middorsal row. The stripe on the middorsal row "is connected to dark markings along the medial edges of the scales of the paravertebral rows, giving the whole stripe a hatched appearance" (Wilson and Mena, 1980). The venter is immaculate cream, save for a single brown spot at the lateral edges of each ventral. The head pattern consists of a brown head cap with two anterior horn-shaped extensions onto the prefrontals and internasals. Pale nuchal spots beginning on the parietals are confluent with the dorsal ground color. No dark nape band is present. Pale pre- and postocular spots are present. Ventrals and subcaudals range from 144 to 157 and 59 to 65, respectively.

• **Diagnosis.** *Tantilla insulamontana* may be distinguished from all congeners by possession of a multilineate dorsal pattern of narrow dark stripes on a tan background, including a dark middorsal stripe, a head pattern consisting of a dark head cap with two horn-shaped anterior extensions onto the snout, pale nuchal spots confluent with the dorsal ground color, and no dark nape band, 144 to 157 ventrals, and 59 to 65 subcaudals.

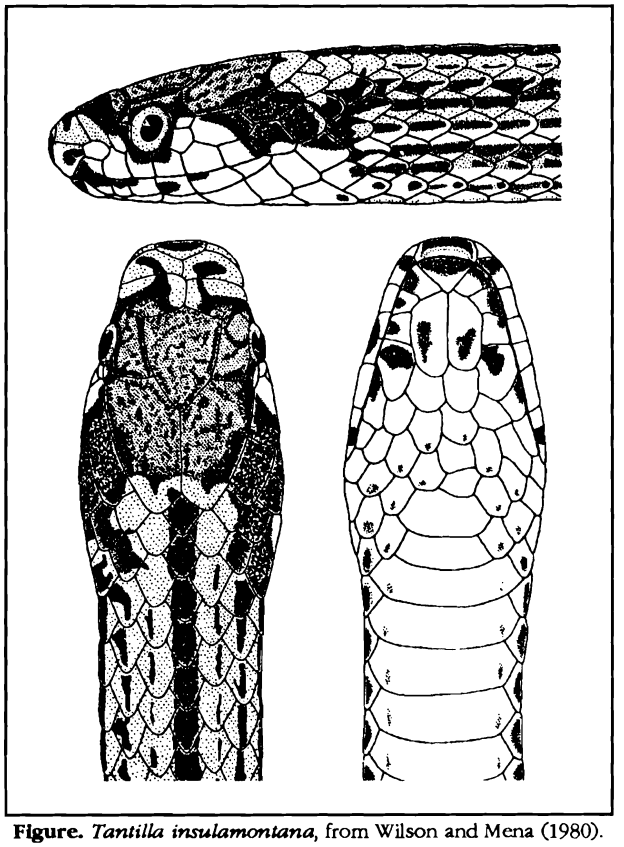
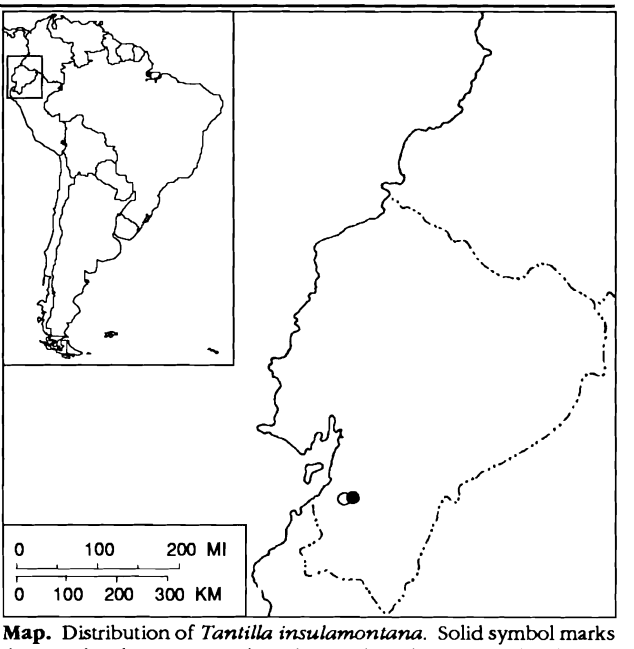


Figure. *Tantilla insulamontana*, from Wilson and Mena (1980).



Map. Distribution of *Tantilla insulamontana*. Solid symbol marks the type-locality, open circle indicates the other known locality.

• **Descriptions.** Only the original description of Wilson and Mena (1980) and that in Wilson (1987) exist.

• **Illustrations.** Wilson and Mena (1980) provided pen-and-ink drawings of lateral, dorsal, and ventral views of the head and anterior body, as well as the dorsal color pattern.

• **Distribution.** *Tantilla insulamontana* occurs at "intermediate elevations 1250 to 2100 m of the Hoya de Jubones (Pacific drainage) in southern Ecuador" (Wilson and Mena, 1980).

• **Fossil Record.** None

• **Pertinent Literature.** All the information on this species is in Wilson and Mena's (1980) revision of the *Tantilla melanocephala* group and Wilson's (1987) résumé of the South American *Tantilla*, except for its listing in a summary of the genus (Wilson, 1982).

• **Etymology.** The name *insulamontana* is derived from the Latin *insula*, meaning "island," and *montis*, meaning "mountain," in reference to the distribution of this species in an isolated intermontane basin in Ecuador.

Literature Cited

Wilson, Larry David. 1982. *Tantilla*. Cat. Amer. Amphib. Rept.: 307.1-307.4.

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